



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION IX

75 Hawthorne Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

December 22, 2017

Tim Nuvangyaoma, Chairman  
Hopi Tribe  
P.O. Box 123  
Kykotsmovi, AZ 86039

Subject: EPA Drinking Water Tribal Set-Aside Draft Ranking

Dear Chairman Nuvangyaoma:

This letter is to notify you of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) draft ranking for the proposal submitted by the Hopi Tribe in response to the Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 Drinking Water Tribal Set-Aside (DWTSA) solicitation. A description of the basis for our draft ranking is included in the Enclosure.

<u>Project Number</u>	<u>Project Name</u>	<u>Draft Ranking Health Category</u>
DWTSA 18-4	Hopi Arsenic Mitigation Project	6c

USEPA received 14 proposals with requests for funding totaling over \$20 million. The amount of funds that will be available in FY2018 is unknown at this time; however, we hope to fund some portion of projects in Health Categories 1-6 that are ready to proceed, and possibly portions of some projects in Health Categories 7 and 8. A description of the health ranking categories is included on pages 15 and 16 of the USEPA Region 9 Drinking Water Tribal Set-Aside Program 2018 Guidelines and Procedures for Applying for Assistance:

(<http://www.epa.gov/region9/funding/dwtisa.html>).

**To maintain consideration for USEPA funding or reconsideration of the draft ranking, the following information must be received by USEPA no later than February 1, 2018.**

1. Responses to the attached USEPA comments and requests for information.
2. Capacity Checklist, Financial Management Spreadsheet and Project Management Checklist (<http://www.epa.gov/region9/funding/dwtisa.html>). The DWTSA program regulations require that the Tribe has adequate technical, managerial and financial capacity to operate and maintain the system in compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). USEPA's assessment of the Tribe's capacity may include a site visit from your USEPA Program Manager and/or a contractor. Please note that assistance will not be provided to systems that are in significant noncompliance with national primary drinking water regulations (including monitoring and reporting requirements), unless the system achieves compliance or the project that is being funded will ensure compliance. Likewise, those systems that cannot demonstrate the capacity to operate and maintain the

system in compliance with the SDWA will not be funded.

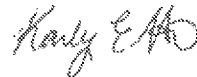
3. A copy of the most recent operator certification for the operator(s) of each public water system for which you submitted a project proposal.

Please send your responses to:

Emmanuelle Rapicavoli, DWTSA Coordinator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9  
Drinking Water Protection Section (WTR-3-2)  
75 Hawthorne Street  
San Francisco, California 94105

If you have questions, please contact your Program Manager and the DWTSA coordinator, Emmanuelle Rapicavoli at (415) 972-3969. Thank you for participating in the FY2018 DWTSA solicitation.

Sincerely,



*For:* Audrey L. Johnson  
Acting Manager  
Drinking Water Protection Section

Enclosure

cc: Carroll Onsaе, Hopi Utility Corporation  
Tim Bodell, Hopi Utility Corporation  
Lionel Puhuyesva, Hopi Water Resources  
Eric Matson, Indian Health Service  
James Carter, Indian Health Service  
Brad Rea, Indian Health Service  
Jeff Hays, USDA  
Loretta Orona, USDA  
Mike Luecker, USDA  
Ivan Sidney, FMCV  
Anita Bahnimptewa, Sipaulovi CSA  
Maxine Wadsworth, Shungopavi CSA

**Hopi Arsenic Mitigation Project (HAMP)**  
**FY18 DWTSA Comments**  
**December 22, 2017**

EPA has ranked this project as a health ranking category 6c due to elevated arsenic levels in the four village water systems of Polacca, Shungopavi, Sipaulovi and Mishongovi. In order to maintain funding consideration, please respond to the following by **February 1, 2018**:

- 1) **USDA-RD Application-** EPA does not yet have a FY18 budget, however, we have committed to provide up to \$2 million in FY18 funds, and \$2 million in FY19 funds toward the HAMP provided that we receive similar amounts of DWTSA funding that we have in past fiscal years. EPA can only commit FY18 funds for this project if full funding commitments are made by the partner agencies of United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development (USDA-RD), Indian Health Service (IHS) and the Hopi Utility Corporation (HUC). We understand that USDA-RD would likely provide the largest source of funds for this project. In order demonstrate the HUC's commitment to secure full project funding, please copy EPA on the submission of an application to USDA-RD for HAMP funding by **February 1, 2018**.
- 2) **First Mesa Consolidated Villages (FMCV) Participation** – Please confirm the participation of FMCV in the HAMP project.
- 3) **Five-Year HUC Operating Budget and Revenue Stream-** We understand that the HUC has developed a five-year operating budget that received support from the Hopi Tribal Council. Please provide EPA a copy of the plan showing a commitment from the Hopi Tribe to fund the utility during its initial startup and into its first year of full operation of the regional water system.
- 4) **Operator Certification** – Please describe your plans for the HUC to employ operators that are certified at the appropriate level to operate the wholesale regional water system once commissioned. Those related costs should be included in the operating budget.